

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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SS Abner Doubleday  
August 7, 1943

From: Wade H. McKinney, Ensign USNR  
To: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations  
Via: Port Director  
Subject: Voyage report of SS Abner Doubleday

7176

Reference: (a) General instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval Armed Guards on Merchant Ships 1942

I. In accordance with reference (a) the following is submitted:

- 1. Name of Vessel\*\*\*\*\*SS Abner Doubleday  
 Type of Vessel\*\*\*\*\*Steamship  
 Charter operated under\*\*\*A.T.S.  
 Gross Tonnage\*\*\*\*\*7176  
 Type of cargo\*\*\*\*\*Ballast  
 Owner of Vessel\*\*\*\*\*Marine Transport Corp.
- 2. Port of departure\*\*\*\*\*Liverpool  
 Time of departure\*\*\*\*\*1430  
 Date of departure\*\*\*\*\*July 24th. 1943  
 Sailing in convoy\*\*\*\*\*Yes  
 Number of ships\*\*\*\*\*84  
 Escort vessels\*\*\*\*\*Corvettes & Destroyers  
 Speed of convoy\*\*\*\*\*10  
 Port of arrival\*\*\*\*\*New York  
 Time of arrival\*\*\*\*\*1530  
 Master of Ship\*\*\*\*\*John Thunberg  
 Nationality of Master\*\*\*U.S.A.

LRA

LRR

ALT

3. Contacts with the Enemy

There were no contacts with the Enemy.

4. Summary of the Voyage

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| July 24, 1943  | 0530 left dock for stream; 0731 dropped anchor; 1430 anchor aweigh; 1652 pilot dropped. 1700 convoy formed; 1810 held boat drill, clear small sea. Fog during night. |
| July 25, 1943  | Heavy fog until 1900, light rain, small sea and swell.   |
| July 26, 1943  | S.W. by W. sea, ship rolling and pitching; cloudy and squalls all day.   |
| July 27, 1943  | S.W. by W. sea, ship rolling and pitching; cloudy & squalls  |
| July 28, 1943  | Cloudy rough sea and swell.  |
| July 29, 1943  | 1100 boat drill, 1120 fired all 20 MM. guns.   |
| July 30, 1943  | Cloudy, small N.W. swell.  |
| July 31, 1943  | Cloudy, small S.W. by S. swell, fog during nite.   |
| August 1, 1943 | Fog and rain, small S.W. by S. sea.  |
| August 2, 1943 | Partly cloudy, small W. by S. sea.   |
| August 3, 1943 | Fog, cloudy, small W. by S. sea and swell.   |
| August 4, 1943 | 1800 boat drill, Moderate W. by S. sea and swell   |
| August 5, 1943 | Moderate W. by S. sea and swell, light squalls.  |
| August 6, 1943 | Clear calm sea.  |

5. Radio Messages Received;  
Some of these were not coded.

|                |                      |       |
|----------------|----------------------|-------|
| July 23, 1943  | No. of Message ----- | 1408Z |
| July 25, 1943  | " " " -----          | 0827Z |
| July 26, 1943  | " " " -----          | 0803Z |
| July 28, 1943  | " " " -----          | 1617Z |
| July 30, 1943  | " " " -----          | 1625Z |
| July 31, 1943  | " " " -----          | 2102Z |
| August 5, 1943 | " " " -----          | 2307Z |

6. Commercial Radio Operator did carry out War Time Instructions for Merchant Vessels.
7. The 3/50 magazine becomes too hot in hot weather.
8. Master and Officers did carry out their Wartime Instructions.

*W.R. McKinney*  
Wade R. McKinney  
C.O. Armed Guard Unit.

June 30, 1943 Sea watch set 0400  
 Anchor aweigh 0455; at 0845 crew and gunners have boat drill. Partly cloudy, light following sea.

July 1, 1943 All quiet, light following sea, clear. 1545 fire drill.

July 2, 1943 Clear, light following sea. 1015 hold gun drill. 1540 boat drill.

July 3, 1943 Clear, light swell.

July 4, 1943 2330 dense fog set in, visibility zero. Cloudy, light swell.

July 5, 1943 Dense fog all day and night. Signals sounded approximately every 15 minutes. Visibility zero.

July 6, 1943 Still dense fog, signals sounding.

July 7, 1943 Fog lifted at 0800, visibility practically 3 miles. Rain squalls. 1600 hold boat drill. 1630 hold gun drills.

July 8, 1943 Cloudy, moderate following sea.

July 9, 1943 Moderate following sea, cloudy, rain squalls. 1550 fire and boat drill. 1630 gun drill. At approximately 2320 the third mate stated steering gear out of order. Captain was called, 2 red lights turned on and whistle sounded. Ship was slowed down then stopped. We turned to starboard out of control and ships on our starboard began giving way in order to clear us except #112 and she remained on her course until very close by then her stern seemed to turn into our starboard bow. The two ships hit smashing our bulwark in for approximately 25 ft. After a short time the Chief Engineer had all working and got under way. We were back in position approximately 0400.

July 10, 1943 Cloudy, moderate sea. 1430 hold gun drills.

July 11, 1943 Partly cloudy, rain squalls, moderate swells.

July 13, 1943 Cloudy, heavy following sea. Land sighted 0655. Two submarines sighted 1420, which were friendly.

5. Radio Messages Received; some of these were not coded.

July 2, 1943 No. of message....012010Z

July 3, 1943 No. of messages...031715Z, 011119Z

July 4, 1943 No. of messages...031621Z, 031813Z, 031350Z, 031340Z

July 5, 1943 No. of messages...051915Z, 060204Z, 061338Z

July 7, 1943 No. of message....071412Z